



U. S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
District of New Hampshire*

*Federal Building
55 Pleasant Street, Room 352
Concord, New Hampshire 03301*

603/225-1552

MEDIA RELEASE
For Immediate Release
September 20, 2004

Contact: Thomas P. Colantuono
United States Attorney
Alfred Rubega
Assistant U.S. Attorney
(603) 225-1552

NEW JERSEY WOMAN GUILTY OF FALSE STATEMENTS

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE – United States Attorney Tom Colantuono announced that CHARMAINE GORDON, 33, of East Orange, NJ, pleaded guilty to intentionally making false statements in an application for a passport. GORDON was indicted in U.S. District Court in May 2003, after agents of the U.S. State Department's Diplomatic Security Service uncovered the fraud at the National Passport Center in Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

GORDON, a Jamaican citizen, pleaded guilty to willfully and knowingly making false statements to the State Department in a passport application in order to fraudulently obtain a United States passport. In February, 2002, GORDON submitted a passport application in which she claimed that she was born in Patterson, New Jersey.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated: "Passport fraud is a matter of grave concern. We will do everything possible to make sure that passports are not issued to persons who misrepresent their citizenship or falsify passport applications. Anyone who submits false information or fraudulently poses as a citizen to obtain a United States passport will be prosecuted."

This case resulted from an ongoing initiative known as "Operation Checkmate" which is designed to identify false passport applications that are submitted for adjudication to the National Passport Center in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The National Passport Center processes and adjudicates approximately two million applications each year, or one-quarter of all United States passport applications. Operation Checkmate is a joint initiative of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Hampshire, the U.S. Department of State, Diplomatic Security Service, the Social Security Administration Office of Inspector General and the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

GORDON's sentencing hearing was set by U.S. District Judge Steven J. McAuliffe for December 20, 2004 at 2:00 P.M. Assistant U. S. Attorney Alfred Rubega is prosecuting this case.